Promotion of foreign breed of cows

†*230. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the results achieved from the schemes going on for a long time for promotion of foreign breed of cows like Jersy and Houston;

(b) whether they have contributed to increase in production of milk in the country;

(c) the details of foreign breed of cows; and

(d) the difference found in quality of milk of foreign and domestic breed of cows?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Genetic upgradation programme being implemented by Government of India using exotic breeds of cows, namely, Holstein Friesian and Jersey on nondescript indigenous cattle has resulted in increase in their productivity. At present 21% of the total milk produced in the country is from 9.09 million crossbred cows in milk, as against 20% of the total milk coming from 28.3 million indigenous cows in milk.

(c) Under the genetic upgradation programmes being implemented by Government of India two exotic breeds, namely, Holstein Friesian ands Jersey have been utilized.

(d) Difference found in quality of milk of foreign and domestic breed of cows is in terms of milk fat percentage. The milk fat percentage of foreign breed of cows on an average ranges from 3 to 4.5% whereas the same in indigenous breeds ranges from 4 to 5.5%, although lactation yield is higher in exotic breed of cows as compared to indigenous breed of cows.

Measures to improve forthcoming Rabi yields

*231. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether drought conditions have worsened and resulted in Kharif output to fall by 15 per cent;

(b) whether the Minister of Finance has also pointed out that there will be 15 to 20 per cent shortfall in country's Kharif crop due to deficient monsoon and drought conditions;

(c) whether food prices will continue to rise;

(d) whether Government has decided to give Rs. 288 crore subsidy for Rabi seeds; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the concrete steps and measures Government proposes to take to improve Rabi output and to give protection to Rabi seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Delayed deficient and erratic rainfall during, 2009 has adversely affected Kharif food grain output by around 18% (as per first Advance Estimate 2009-10).

(c) Food prices depend on several factors such as production within the country and globally, climatic conditions, dietary preferences of consumers, overall economic growth etc. To mitigate the effect of drought and to stabilize the food prices in the country, minimum support price of rice and wheat has been increased for Kharif and Rabi Marketing Seasons. Export of non-basmati rice has been banned and import of wheat and rice on private account at zero duty is allowed. Central issue price of wheat and rice has not been increased since 1.7.2002 to lessen burden of inflation on the poor. State Governments have been requested to maximize the procurement of rice by opening sufficient procurement centers and other necessary arrangement for procurement of paddy and its milling.

(d) In view of recent drought, the distribution subsidy on certified seeds under various programmes/schemes namely Integrated Scheme on Oilseed, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (MMA) has been enhanced with an additional estimated subsidy of Rs.288.26 Crores for distribution of certified seeds during current Rabi Season.

(e) Government of India has taken several other initiatives to increase more coverage of various crops during Rabi, 2009 and also to enhance the productivity. States have been given more flexibility to utilize the funds to meet the additional demand for requirement of seed distribution component. Subsidy norms of Rice, Wheat, Jowar, Bajra and Pulses (only for Rabi/summer 2009) have been increased under various crops development schemes of Ministry of Agriculture to reduce the burden on farmers in drought affected area. Age norms of certified seed of rice, wheat and pulses have been relaxed and additional area coverage under boro/summer rice/wheat/pulses are planned for enhancing production. Additional allocation of rust resistance and terminal heat-tolerant varieties of wheat minikits has been done. Availability and supply of essential inputs such as fertilizer, additional power for irrigation has been ensured in coordination with States and various Central Ministries.

Sale of VIP quota tickets

*232. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether she is aware of the media report that VIP quota for waitlisted ticket confirmation is being sold for Rs. 700/- per berth by Headquarter, Rail Bhavan;